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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
TO ELABORATE A CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (INCD)
First session
24 May-3 June 1993
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

Note by the secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Election of officers

3. Sharing of technical information and assessments, including the following elements:

   (a) Desertification, drought and the global environment

   (b) Causes, general extent and consequences of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas

   (c) Social and economic dimensions

   (d) Pattern of bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes

   (e) Experiences with international, regional, subregional and national programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in developing countries

(f) Experiences of developed countries

(g) Some possible elements of a new strategy to promote sustainable development in countries experiencing drought and desertification

4. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:

(a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

(b) Trust fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second session

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session

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Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee, at its organizational session (New York, 26-29 January 1993) approved the provisional agenda for the first session, as contained in document A/AC.241/L.2/Rev.1.

The provisional agenda for the first session is submitted for adoption.

The Committee should consider the first list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which are recommended for accreditation for the negotiation process of the Convention (A/AC.241/9). It is advisable to decide on this matter at an early stage of the session in order to allow NGOs to attend the session. Other requests for accreditation will be submitted later during the session.

The work programme (annex I) provides further details on the organization of the present session.

The Committee should also decide on the work programme of each working group.

2. Election of officers

The Committee should elect the rapporteur.

It should also elect the remaining officers of the two Working Groups established at the organizational session (A/AC.241/4, para. 15).

3. Sharing of technical information and assessments

The Committee, at its organizational session, spelled out seven elements to be considered under this agenda item. The secretariat, with the advice of the panel of experts and following consultations with concerned international organizations, provided further details for those elements and invited individual experts and organizations to prepare specific presentations. These oral presentations will be accompanied by written documents made available by the presentators.

The note on technical information and assessments on drought and desertification (A/AC.241/6) provides a detailed programme for the presentations by individual experts, organizations and countries.

4. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The Committee will have before it the document prepared by the secretariat (A/AC.241/7). It may also take into consideration other proposals that may be submitted by Governments during the discussions. It should be recalled that the Committee, at its organizational session, invited Governments to make proposals for the text of the Convention and to submit these to the secretariat not later than 1 July 1993.

In addition the Committee may want to give further guidance with regard to the format of the Convention and its possible contents.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

(a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

(b) Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

At its organizational session the Committee took note of pledges made by several countries to both the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund.

The Committee will have before it the document (A/AC.241/8) submitted by the secretariat indicating the present status of the two funds.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second session

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session

List of Documents for the first session of the Committee

A/AC.241/5	Provisional agenda
A/AC.241/6	Technical information and assessments on drought and desertification
A/AC.241/7	Format and possible elements of the Convention
A/AC.241/8	Report on the status of the extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Annex I

WORK PROGRAMME

May 24	a.m. 10:00	Meeting of the INCD Bureau	
	p.m. 15:00	Opening of the First Session of INCD	
		Agenda Item 1.	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Agenda Item 2.	Election of officers
		Agenda Item 3.	Sharing of technical information and assessments
May 25	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
May 26	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
May 27	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
May 28	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
May 29	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 3.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 3.	(conclusions)
May 31	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 4.	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
June 1	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 4.	(continuation)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 4.	(continuation)

June 2	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 1.	(resume)
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 5.	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
			(a) Special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and/or desertification, particularly the least developed countries
			(b) Trust fund for the negotiating process
June 3	a.m. 10:00	Agenda Item 6.	Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second session
	p.m. 15:00	Agenda Item 7.	Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session

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First Session
24 May-3 June 1993
Agenda item 3

SHARING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS

Note by the Secretariat

General Assembly resolution 47/188 (para. 11), requests the Head of the Ad Hoc Secretariat to make available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the first substantive session the most relevant and recent information available on drought and desertification. The resolution also decided (para. 5), that the first week of the Committee's first substantive session be devoted to sharing technical information and assessments on drought and desertification.

The organizational session of the INCD in New York 26-29 January 1993 subsequently decided that this information sharing segment would consist of seven parts devoted to analysis of: (I) desertification, drought and the global environment, (II) causes, general extent and consequences of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, (III) social and economic dimensions, (IV) patterns of bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes, (V) experience with international, regional, sub-regional and national programmes to combat desertification and mitigate drought in

developing countries, (VI) experiences of developed countries, and (VII) some possible elements of a new strategy to promote sustainable development in countries experiencing drought and desertification.

The Secretariat developed an outline of specific topics under the seven general headings. It then asked governments, competent international organizations or, in a few cases, a member of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification, to take the lead in presenting each specific topic. Oral presentations will be supplemented by longer written versions, in French and English, giving more details about the topic.

The purpose of this note is to fully inform governments and observers about the content of the information sharing segment so they can prepare comments and questions for the discussion period which will follow each topical presentation.

Attached is a rough schedule of the information sharing segment divided into half-day blocks. It shows in parentheses after each topic the organization or individual making the presentation on it.

Schedule of First Week of First Substantive Session of INCD

May 24

P.M. OPENING OF MEETING

I. DESERTIFICATION, DROUGHT AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

- Interrelationships between the global climate system, drought and desertification, including the impact of desertification on climate change and global warming (Professor Robert Balling, Arizona State University, USA)

- Desertification and desiccation as a threat to the conservation and utilization of biodiversity (Tentatively Professsor A.M. Imevbore, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)

- Effect of desertification and desiccation on ground and surface hydrological systems, water availability and water quality (UNESCO)

- Modern techniques for assessing the global environment, including satellite imagery, remote sensing, geographic information systems (UNEP)

May 25

A.M.

II. CAUSES, GENERAL EXTENT AND PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES OF LAND DEGRADATION IN ARID, SEMI-ARID AND DRY SUB-HUMID AREAS

- Degradation of rainfed agricultural lands, irrigated agricultural lands, ranching and traditional pastoral lands, and forest lands (FAO)

- Land degradation resulting from urbanization, industrialization, mining and tourism (HABITAT)

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

- Economic, social and cultural causes and consequences of drought and desertification, including linkages to poverty, population pressure, food security, international trading patterns, traditional mechanisms for coping with drought and desertification, and gender/religious aspects (IFAD)

P.M.

- Impact of economic polices, including incentives and disincentives to appropriate technologies, particularly land tenure systems and subsidies (World Bank)

- Role of planning systems and instruments, including integration of anti-desertification programmes into overall development programmes (UNSO)

IV. PATTERN OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

- Volume and quality of different types of financial flows and assistance programmes, including multilateral and bilateral sources, debt repayments and rescheduling, regional and functional breakdowns and the role of special funding mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (OECD/Club du Sahel)

- Programmes of non-governmental organizations (NGOs to be decided)

May 26

A.M.

V. EXPERIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND MITIGATE DROUGHT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Southern Africa (SADC)

- Sudano-Sahelian Africa (CILSS, IGADD)

- North Africa (UMA, Algeria, Tunisia)

May 26
(continued)

P.M. - Middle East (Yemen, Gulf Cooperation Council)

- South Asia (India, Pakistan)

May 27

A.M. - China

- Latin America (Chile, Brazil, Mexico)

P.M. - Central Asia (Tentatively Turkmenistan)

VI. EXPERIENCES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- Spain

- United States

- Australia

May 28

A.M. VII. SOME POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A NEW STRATEGY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION

- Integrated community driven approaches: participation in decision making, freedom of information, education and awareness, role of NGOs, women and other major groups (IFAD)

- New directions in systematic information collection and analysis: national ground monitoring structures, soil surveys, revised national accounts, revised indicators, early warning systems, impact assessments, information networks (UNEP)

- Promising technologies to reverse land degradation: current trends in research, development and cooperation (World Resources Institute)

- Experimentation and innovations in capacity building (UNSO)

May 28
(continued)
P.M.

- Development of alternative livelihood systems: conservation and utilization of dryland biodiversity, processing of agricultural/pastoral products, infrastructure and other facilities to support new industries and services, migration strategies (IFAD)

- Alternative energy systems for dryland areas: agroforestry, improved stoves, solar and wind power (Tentatively Third World Environment and Development (ENDA))

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF INFORMATION SHARING SEGMENT

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First Session
24 May-3 June 1993
Agenda item 4

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Format and possible elements of the Convention

Note by the Secretariat

I. FORMAT OF THE CONVENTION

II. INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

1. Preamble
2. Principles
3. Definitions
4. Objectives

III. NATIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

1. Basic strategy
2. Role of case studies
3. Options for incorporation
4. Review and verification

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IV. GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

1. Research and development
2. Data collection and analysis
3. Exchange of information
4. Technology transfer and cooperation
5. Capacity building
6. Education and awareness
7. Linkages to global environmental issues
8. Financial resources and mechanisms
9. Coordination and cooperation

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Conference of the Parties
2. Secretariat
3. Subsidiary bodies
4. Dispute settlement mechanisms

VI. PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Annexes and protocols
2. Amendments
3. Voting procedures
4. Signature
5. Depositary
6. Ratification
7. Entry into force
8. Interim arrangements
9. Reservations
10. Withdrawals
11. Authentic texts

Introduction

1. At its organizational session in New York 26-29 January 1993, the INCD approved an agenda for the first substantive session of the Committee in Nairobi (A/AC.241/L.2/Rev.1). It decided, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/188, that it would devote the first week of the Nairobi session to sharing technical information and assessments and the second week to initial discussions of the format and possible elements for inclusion in a convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (hereafter the Convention).

2. The organization of the first week of the Nairobi meeting of the INCD is the subject of a separate note from the Secretariat (A/AC.241/6). The INCD also agreed that the secretariat should prepare a paper with its analysis and recommendations on the format and elements of the Convention. This would serve as background for INCD deliberations during the second week and assist Governments in later presenting proposals on the text of the Convention, which the Committee agreed, at the request of the Chairman, should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 July 1993.

3. The Secretariat wrote the present paper to meet the request of the INCD for background documentation. In doing so, it consulted extensively with the International Panel of Experts on Desertification established in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 47/188 as well as with United Nations agencies involved in programmes aimed at combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

I. FORMAT OF THE CONVENTION

4. International law establishes no standard format for international agreements. The INCD will decide how to structure the Convention and any accompanying instruments. In doing so, however, the Committee can draw to the extent it wishes on some standard practices evident in past agreements. Where appropriate, the sections below note the formats which recent environmental conventions, particularly the Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereafter Climate Change Convention) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereafter Biodiversity Convention), have followed. These references are not meant in any way to prejudge the content of future provisions in the Convention.

5. At the most general level, international agreements break into four parts. The first part usually incorporates introductory elements which set the overall context for the agreement. These can take the form of a preamble and definitions and, in some conventions, articles dealing with objectives and principles. The second part consists of operational articles laying out the commitments which the parties to the agreement undertake. The third and fourth parts then specify the institutional and procedural arrangements for implementing the agreement and monitoring adherence to its provisions. The last two parts, in particular, contain standard elements, such as dispute settlement provisions and voting procedures, common to many if not all

agreements. Instruments that may accompany conventions include annexes, which are an integral part of the agreement, as well as protocols which operate separately.

6. The format of the operational articles of agreements varies widely depending on substantive focus. In the case of the Convention, the INCD may wish to consider a commitments structure where the obligations of the parties take the form of a mutually-reinforcing set of agreed actions at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels to support the basic strategy of the Convention and to implement it by bringing to bear appropriate technical and financial resources.

7. Governments in Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 agreed on an approach focusing on actions at the local community level. Following this approach, commitments in the Convention at other levels would be seen as supporting and empowering local efforts. In discussing possible elements of the Convention's operational articles, the Secretariat first discusses the incorporation of commitments to national and subregional action programmes then analyses nine categories for structuring global-level commitments. There would however, be considerable overlap between categories of action at different levels.

II. INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

1. Preamble

8. Most international conventions, including recent environmental conventions, begin with a preamble. Preambular language in conventions resembles that in United Nations resolutions. Contracting parties use preambles to establish the political context for convention commitments, to describe the background and basis for negotiations and to establish linkages to related legal instruments, resolutions or action programmes. The following are some themes - there are undoubtedly others - which the INCD might consider in preambular language:

(a) The adverse effects of land degradation in dryland areas, because they are so widespread, are an issue of common concern to all countries. In this sense, desertification is, like climate change or biological diversity, a global problem, not just a regional or local one. Moreover, combating desertification can be justified economically in its own right and can also help in solving other environmental problems;

(b) The gravity of desertification processes and the recurrence of drought are causal factors adversely affecting both the sustainable development of different world regions and the livelihood of millions of people. The health and welfare of populations, food security and energy balances are increasingly menaced along with life support systems and dryland ecosystems. (Throughout this paper, the term dryland refers to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas as a group.);

(c) Desertification processes have thus resulted in the induced migration of thousands within countries and across borders, even to distant developed nations;

(d) The world community endorsed in Rio, and at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the elaboration of the Convention as a new and fundamental instrument to mobilize the political, human, scientific and technical resources to combat desertification and mitigate drought;

(e) Poverty, which is both a cause and a consequence of degradation in drylands, is a major factor in accelerating desertification. Control of desertification must, therefore, include the improvement of the social and economic conditions of local populations in the regions affected and the reinforcement of integrated local development;

(f) The social and economic effects of desertification are the direct cause of social and political instability in developing countries. Ecological instability and its social implications constitute a direct menace to social and political stability in many areas of the world;

(g) Coordinated action by both countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification and by the international community, including meaningful political and financial commitments, is essential to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in a sustainable way. The global nature of drought and desertification also calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response.

9. Aside from introducing themes such as those above, the Preamble could usefully recall the history of drought and desertification issues in a United Nations context. Such chronological references might include, among others: (a) the 1977 United Nations Conference on Desertification and the plans of action which flowed from it; (b) the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), beginning with Resolution 44/228 through the results of the Rio Conference to the present activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development; (c) the Abidjan Common Position, which constituted the first call for the Convention; and (d) other regional declarations from Africa as well as other continents.

2. Principles

10. Articles on principles are rare in treaty law. When they appear, they often use mandatory language ("parties shall") best construed as commitments. Otherwise, the legal status of an article on principles is unclear. If principles state the intention of parties or provide a context for interpreting commitments, some legal experts argue that they belong in the preamble not in operative paragraphs. Clearly, if parties wish the principles to be commitments, they should denominate them as such.

11. There are articles on principles in both the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions. The chapeau of Article 3 of the Climate Change Convention contains mandatory language: "In their actions to achieve the objectives of the convention and to implement its provisions, the parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following." The language in the sub-paragraphs of this article is, however, weaker when providing that

"parties should". Article 3 of the Biodiversity Convention, on the other hand, merely recalls the sovereign rights of States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

12. Subsequent to agreement on the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions, Governments adopted at UNCED the Rio Declaration which sets out general principles for promoting sustainable development. One approach to dealing with principles in the Convention would be to craft preambular language making appropriate references to the Rio Declaration or to one or more of its individual principles, such as those on intergenerational equity, sovereignty over natural resources, the significant role of major groups, particularly women, in sustainable development and the concept that lack of scientific certainty should not deter urgently needed action.

3. Definitions

13. Article 1 of the Climate Change Convention lists 9 definitions, Article 2 of the Biodiversity Convention 17. It would similarly be useful to underpin the Convention with definitions of terminology frequently associated with the phenomena of drought and desertification. This would add clarity to commitments and facilitate the drafting and negotiation of operating paragraphs.

14. Governments accepted in paragraph 12.2 of Agenda 21 the following definition: "Desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities." Despite this important agreement, some fundamental definitional issues remain and raise the following questions:

(a) What is the scientific meaning of drought, which researchers define, depending on their focus, in terms of temperature, rainfall, vegetation cover or ecosystem water budgets? How long do abnormal conditions defined using these parameters have to persist to reach a drought threshold? What would the intensity and duration of a drought have to be to characterize it as "serious"?

(b) Are there accepted definitions of land degradation in various cropping, pastoral and forest systems?

(c) How are arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas distinguished? Would it be useful to employ the term drylands in referring to these three areas as a group, as this paper does?

(d) Which countries are experiencing serious drought and/or desertification? Is it necessary to list them in an annex to the Convention? What does it mean to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought but not yet experiencing desertification?

15. If the INCD wishes, the Secretariat, with the assistance of the Panel of Experts could recommend some definitions for inclusion in the Convention. Where possible, they would be definitions on which there is already consensus among Governments and international organizations or within the scientific

community. They would include not only terminology related to drought and desertification from the physical sciences but also some terms from the social sciences.

16. The following is a non-limited list of some terms which the Secretariat and the Panel of Experts felt the INCD might like to define: (a) combating desertification (to incorporate the concepts of prevention, rehabilitation, management and improvement); (b) drought (bearing in mind that there are meteorological, agricultural, hydrological and biological dimensions); (c) drought threshold; (d) climate classification (hyper-arid, arid, semi-arid, dry sub-humid, sub-humid, humid); (e) climate variations; (f) overgrazing; (g) land degradation (in cropping, pastoral and forest systems); (h) drylands; (i) desiccation; (j) integrated development; (k) comprehensive and minimum data sets; (l) traditional technologies; (m) alternative livelihoods; (n) local community; and (o) sustainable rural development.

4. Objectives

17. An article on objectives is also a feature of some international agreements. Article 2 of the Climate Change Convention and Article 1 of the Biodiversity Convention are recent examples. There is general agreement that the Convention should contain a clear statement of its objectives.

18. Wherever language setting out the objectives of the Convention appears, there are several options, which are not mutually exclusive, for framing it. One possibility is to refer to the detailed objectives which Governments already accepted in Agenda 21, particularly those in the six programme areas of Chapter 12 on combating drought and desertification. A more likely approach might be the development of a succinct paragraph laying out general objectives.

19. At the first meeting of the Panel of Experts, there was considerable discussion of the possible objectives of the Convention. The result, as modified in contacts with relevant United Nations agencies, was a first try at a succinct formulation of a paragraph on objectives, which reads as follows:

> "The overall objective of the Convention is to marshal effective and specific commitments, actions and cooperation at local, national, regional and global levels to implement a new integrated systems approach to combating desertification and mitigating drought by promoting sustainable development at the local community level according to the real needs local people perceive. This implies a long-term focus on both improving living conditions and the quality of life at the community level and simultaneously managing land resources sustainably to maximize dryland productivity."

20. Some legal experts question the wisdom of including in conventions an article specifically devoted to objectives, preferring to reflect objectives in preambular language or in articles detailing commitments. They argue that, since Article 18 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties imposes a

duty on parties to a convention not to defeat its "object and purpose", it might be problematic to have in a convention, language of a declarative nature which does not characterize its objectives as commitments.

III. NATIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

1. Basic strategy

21. The centerpiece of the Convention should be a set of procedures for elaborating commitments, both by countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification and by the international community, in the form of national and subregional action programmes. The basic strategy for these action programmes would flow from the objectives of the Convention. Key elements of the strategy might include:

(a) Actions to ensure popular participation in decision making at the local level, including democratic processes, free access by local people to information, emphasis on environmental education and awareness, and a strong role for major groups, particularly farmers, pastoralists, women and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

(b) Measures to reduce poverty, since it is both a cause and a consequence of land degradation, and population pressure;

(c) Expansion of extension services and other local programmes to prevent anthropogenically-caused degradation as well as rehabilitate, sustainably manage and improve, rainfed croplands, irrigated croplands, pastures and forests in dryland areas;

(d) Elaboration of modern techniques for research, information collection, information sharing and capacity building with a new focus on giving local people the tools they perceive they need to utilize the biological and other resources of the ecosystems they live in both sustainably and productively;

(e) Diffusion of appropriate management technologies, customized to local circumstances and land use systems, with full attention to economic incentives and disincentives, commercial possibilities and cultural factors;

(f) Innovation of alternative livelihood systems and migration strategies to relieve population pressure on the carrying capacity of degraded dryland ecosystems;

(g) Development of alternative energy systems for dryland areas through agroforestry, improved stoves and the utilization of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power;

(h) Reorientation of national policies and programmes to provide an "enabling environment" for local action, particularly by removing bottlenecks to sustainable development, such as inappropriate land tenure systems, and by giving priority in national budgets to extension services and other interactions with local people;

(i) Restructuring of subregional institutions and cooperation to fully support sustainable development at the community level in countries of the region, taking full account of debt, trade patterns and other relevant aspects of the international environment.

2. Role of case studies

22. The organizational session of the INCD concurred in the Secretariat organizing a series of case studies to develop flexible models of: (a) the commitments which individual countries affected could take to combat desertification and mitigate drought through local, national and subregional policies and programmes, and (b) the commitments of the international community in support of these policies and programmes.

23. These models would elaborate the structure of, and steps to, prepare national and subregional action programmes to carry out the basic strategy outlined above. The action programmes could have a variety of sectoral components. To avoid duplication in planning processes at the national level, national action programmes could also serve as the management-of-fragile-ecosystems portions of the national sustainable development plans envisaged in Agenda 21.

24. The action programmes would be long-term, covering a period of 10 to 15 years and specifying necessary financial commitments for the duration of the programme. The case studies would evolve general guidelines for the preparation and structure of action programmes but would not provide the type of model which would be replicable in detail in all situations.

25. On the basis of comments from the Panel of Experts, the Secretariat prepared a methodology for the case studies with the aim of attaining a general format for the action programmes. The methodology was then further revised after the Secretariat received suggestions from the countries and subregional organizations involved in carrying out case studies and from United Nations agencies concerned with drought and desertification issues.

26. The phases of the case study methodologies encompass: (a) selection of local communities which are representative of ecosystems and land use systems in a participating country; (b) assembly of readily available physical, social and economic data about each site; (c) consultations with the local communities by carefully selected multidisciplinary teams; (d) preparation of local versions of Agenda 21 for each community; (e) national roundtables to map out strategies for creating the "empowering environment" needed for the local communities to implement their Agenda 21 programmes; (f) seminars with bilateral donors and relevant international agencies to structure the long-term commitments of the international community in national action programmes; (g) preparation of model national action programmes; (h) assembly of readily available information on subregional programmes; (i) meetings organized by subregional organizations to structure the long-term commitments of the international community at the subregional level; and (j) reports to the Secretariat for synthesis and transmission to the INCD.

27. Four African countries (Botswana, Mali, Tunisia and Uganda), and four subregional organizations in their subregions, will participate in the first stage of the case studies. Other countries and subregions will be addressed

later. The Secretariat plans to complete the initial case studies by September 1993 and report on them to the INCD by November 1993.

28. The report to the INCD will: (a) transmit the national and supporting subregional action plans developed in the first stage; (b) summarize the results of local, national and subregional meetings and consultations during the case study process; (c) suggest modifications in the methodologies for preparing action programmes based on case study experience; and (d) draw preliminary conclusions regarding the commitments which different parties could make in a convention framework.

3. Options for incorporation

29. If the Committee agrees that national/subregional action programmes should be a central theme of the Convention, it will have to carefully consider how best to incorporate them. There clearly would have to be a section of the Convention containing articles stating the general nature of commitments to the structure, preparation and review of the programmes. This would unambiguously tie the action programmes to other aspects of the Convention. It would be unwieldy, however, to reflect the details of the programmes in the Convention itself. This would be better left to accompanying instruments, that is, annexes or protocols.

30. It is unlikely that a single model for action programmes would do justice to regional and subregional variations in levels of development and in the nature of desertification processes. There would logically, therefore, need to be a system of accompanying instruments covering different regions or subregions. There would be merit, however, in negotiating one of the accompanying instruments first in order to gain experience with the process. Given the priority which it is agreed the Convention will give to Africa, the Committee would, under this scenario, presumably choose that region as a first model and work to complete an annex/protocol on Africa by the time the Convention itself is ready. In this case, the Convention would have to contain clear commitments that negotiation of annexes/protocols for other regions would follow quickly.

31. Annexes would have the advantage of being integral parts of the Convention. Each party would adhere to them unless the Convention specifically provided otherwise, which is unusual in treaty law. The Convention could equally contain a presumption that all parties would adhere to protocols even though developing countries outside a given region or subregion might not take an active role in negotiating them. This would underline the common interest of all countries in combating desertification and mitigating drought worldwide. It would also allay the concerns which many countries expressed at the organizational session of the INCD about regional instruments to accompany the Convention.

4. Review and verification

32. Many international agreements include reporting/verification requirements because they promote transparency and thus facilitate international review of progress in meeting obligations. Articles 10 and 12 of the Climate Change Convention set up elaborate procedures for communication and consideration by an implementation body of implementation information.

Article 26 of the Biodiversity Convention commits parties to reporting procedures which the Conference of Parties will elaborate at a later stage.

33. The INCD may also wish to include in the Convention a system for reviewing and verifying the implementation of national and subregional action programmes through a system of inventories, indicators and reports by countries, subregional organizations and international agencies. An implementation committee would be the logical institution to assist the Conference of Parties of the Convention in carrying out such reviews.

34. In this regard, countries might commit themselves in the Convention to providing minimum data sets of relevant climate variables, soil and water variables, land use variables, and socio-economic variables. This approach would initially constitute the comprehensive desertification database which Agenda 21 envisages. The Panel of Experts underlined that there is, in the field of land degradation and desertification, ample experience that ambitious data collection programmes are methodologically difficult and do not achieve comprehensive coverage within a reasonable timescale. A well-designed minimum data set programme is much more likely to give adequate data for all dryland areas in support of practical dryland development programmes. Such minimum data sets could draw on existing efforts and give further impetus to extending these efforts into the more marginal areas. In this regard, geographical information systems (GIS) could be most helpful in organizing these sets.

35. In building minimum data sets, the standard reporting routines of appropriate international agencies should be utilized where possible. Data should be available for computation at approximately the district level. Priority should be given to creating as complete data sets as possible for this limited number of variables, postponing further revision of the data set until most dryland areas have been covered adequately.

36. At least the following variables might be usefully included in the relevant minimum data sets: (a) climate variables (albedo, solar radiation, rainfall, temperature, air humidity, wind, dust, groundwater, major surface waters); (b) soil and water variables (wind erosion, water erosion, salinization, waterlogging, soil fertility); (c) land-use variables (land use/production systems, land tenure systems, 10-year changes in land use, woody biomass, fodder biomass, selected plant and animal indicator species, crop yields of major staple crops, number and density of livestock, livestock production); and (d) socio-economic variables (human population, 10-year population changes, seasonal and annual human migration, infant and adult mortality rates, animal and human disease status, per capita income, income distribution, sources of income, market prices of key foodstuffs, energy availability and prices).

IV. GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

37. The INCD will probably wish to include in the Convention obligations of a global nature, some of which might be differentiated. There are two bases for such global commitments: (a) the implications of drought and desertification, and of measures to combat them, for other problems of global significance such as climate change, conservation of biodiversity and water resource management; and (b) the need to support national and subregional actions at global level.

38. Agenda 21, particularly sections on international cooperation, provides a good starting point for considering global commitments. The INCD can draw not only on Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, which concerns drought/desertification, but also on many other chapters. In fact, much of Agenda 21 is relevant to devising an integrated approach to combating desertification.

39. To assist the INCD in considering more concrete global commitments, the Secretariat has divided such obligations into nine categories. For each category, there appears below a brief summary of the relevant parts of Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 and a preliminary discussion of related issues the INCD would wish to consider.

40. There are also some general issues which cut across the nine categories, of which five stand out:

(a) How can the Convention best reflect different types of global commitments? In some cases, articles in the operational part of the Convention may not provide a sufficient level of detail. Should the INCD then consider the preparation of annexes containing prioritized agendas on subjects such as research, data collection, information sharing, the conservation of dryland biodiversity, and possibly others. If so, is there time to negotiate such annexes simultaneously with the Convention or should they be left for the first meeting of the Conference of Parties? What bodies, for example INCD working groups of government experts, should the INCD establish or utilize to prepare technical annexes?

(b) How can the Committee ensure that detailed global commitments complement commitments in national and subregional action plans, some of which will fall in the same general categories?

(c) How can the Committee similarly make sure that global commitments in the Convention, and any annexes to it, mesh with the overall work of the Commission on Sustainable Development? Are there ways of both utilizing in the Convention the initiatives which the Commission takes to implement Agenda 21 and of seeing to it that the Convention takes precedence in matters relating to desertification and drought?

(d) What are the implications of provisions in the Convention, including any annexes to it, for the distribution of work among international agencies? Should the Convention, in some instances at least, designate lead agencies to oversee implementation in areas such as data collection?

(e) How, most importantly, can global actions to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought consistently take a local perspective when their planning and implementation usually takes place at a distance from the local people they ultimately serve?

1. Research and development

Agenda 21 Activities

41. There are significant research activities in five of the six programme areas of Chapter 12. They are notable for their emphasis on research which meets the real needs of local communities. For the purposes of the

Convention, the most important ones are to: (a) integrate indigenous knowledge into desertification research; (b) develop land-use models based on both new practices and traditional local practices; (c) develop and introduce drought-resistant, fast-growing plants appropriate to each dryland region; (d) undertake applied land-use research with the support of local research institutions; (e) do research to improve seasonal forecasts at the farm level; (f) support research on reducing loss and increasing absorption of water in soils and on water harvesting techniques in drought-prone areas; and (g) strengthen interdisciplinary research.

Issues for INCD consideration

42. The Panel of Experts and relevant United Nations agencies identified a number of research priorities within the above activities, including the development of: water harvesting techniques, fencing material for soil loss reduction, grain storage, animal-traction ploughing, local improvement, modalities for protecting threatened animal species, locust warnings, crop forecasts, pest forecasts and market forecasts. With regard to fast-growing plants, the Panel advised giving priority to indigenous plants, plants from similar climates and modern improved varieties in that order. It also stressed the significance of off-station research and participatory research, particularly with women and farmers.

43. An issue of prime importance is the identification of future research and development priorities relevant to the Convention. This question leads to the related issues of: (a) developing technologies which generate real benefits at the local level; (b) finding ways and means of taking proper account of existing local and traditional technologies; and (c) emphasizing ranges of technologies which could be customized to local conditions.

44. The Panel of Experts discussed the development of such a research agenda during its second meeting, advancing many specific suggestions about priorities in overall research and development activities, including local-level technology and the production of appropriate new technologies. The Secretariat will continue this work with the Panel of Experts. It might be incorporated in different ways in the Convention, possibly, for example, in an annex with a detailed and prioritized research agenda.

2. Data collection and analysis

Agenda 21 activities

45. Programme Area A of Chapter 12 deals exclusively with data collection and analysis, which is sometimes referred to as systematic observation. It calls for: (a) strengthening national desertification information centres, regional/global desertification observation networks, national and regional meteorological and hydrological monitoring systems, and national and local institutions for assessing desertification; (b) updating inventories of natural and other resources related to desertification; (c) linking national desertification centres at subregional, regional and global levels while ensuring cooperation among existing international desertification monitoring systems; (d) studying means of measuring the consequences of land degradation in dryland areas; (e) developing a comprehensive desertification/land degradation/human condition database as well as benchmarks for programmes to

combat drought and desertification; (f) involving local populations in collecting and using desertification information; and (g) facilitating the acquisition of appropriate land degradation monitoring technology.

46. There are also important and relevant data collection activities in other programme areas of Chapter 12, notably: (a) conducting socio-economic baseline studies in areas affected by desertification; and (b) strengthening early-warning systems using a variety of sophisticated tools.

Issues for INCD consideration

47. This topic should be read in conjunction with the section above on inventories and indicators to review progress in national and subregional action plans. One set of key issues relates to the cataloguing of major data gaps and identification of appropriate collection programmes. Another encompasses activities to make information collection "demand-driven", that is to tailor observation and analysis to information needs at the local level or to requirements of national decision makers in designing programmes to support local efforts.

48. In considering the first set of issues, as in the case of research activities, the INCD could contemplate an annex or set of articles to set priorities, implementation responsibilities and timetables for collecting minimum data sets. In this regard the Secretariat, with the assistance of the Panel of Experts, will consult closely with relevant United Nations agencies to ascertain actual availabilities and bottlenecks in worldwide data collection.

49. With regard to collection programmes, the Panel of Experts offered the following observations at its second meeting: (a) aerial photography and other remote sensing technologies are available to collect most of the relevant natural science data sets; (b) low-resolution imagery involves low investment costs, particularly if dryland countries receive assistance in installation of receiving equipment and training of personnel; (c) the processing costs of high-resolution imagery from systems such as Landsat currently puts them out of reach for most dryland nations; and (d) the international community should consider new initiatives for the steady release of high-resolution data for use by developing countries as well as their access to high-resolution techniques.

50. Turning to the second set of issues, a new locally-focused strategy requires attention to far more than collecting and sharing specific data sets, as important as that might be for a global appreciation of desertification issues. Extensive networks and sophisticated systems are necessary but not sufficient. There is also a need to focus on information collection by local people, tailoring and adapting data to their specific local requirements and receiving local-level feedback on the utility of different kinds of data. Catalyzing the evolution of such a "demand-driven" approach is one of the major challenges the Convention confronts.

3. Exchange of information

Agenda 21 activities

51. Chapter 12 recommends the establishment of regional/global networks to promote information exchange on drought and desertification issues. It also recommends strengthening channels for affected countries to exchange information among themselves and enhancing information exchange among desertification research institutions. Finally, it emphasizes information sharing on technical packages adapted to local conditions and on means of generating alternative livelihoods.

Issues for INCD consideration

52. The constant evolution of information sharing arrangements is essential to carrying out the other functions in this section. Utilization of modern information technology is the key, but traditional modes of diffusion, such as libraries, publications and newsletters, also have a role to play.

53. Methodologically, there is an urgent need to: (a) identify and catalogue existing information sharing arrangements, which are multiplying rapidly; (b) distinguish important types of information related to combating desertification and mitigating drought that are not currently exchanged; (c) integrate socio-economic data into geographic information systems and exchange more qualitative data such as that on project evaluation and NGO activities; (d) invest in the communications infrastructure, computer hardware and computer software required for developing countries to utilize large world networks, such as Internet; (e) designate existing subregional institutions as "gateways" for desertification information; (f) develop national and regional capabilities to collect, retrieve and circulate data in geographic information systems and to transfer local data; and (g) ensure that government and private sector personnel in developing countries have the skills to access and utilize the information they actually need.

54. The INCD will need to consider how parties to the Convention can make concrete commitments in all these areas, possibly, as in the case of research and data collection, through negotiation of an annex on information exchange. The Committee should also take up institutional questions such as giving an existing system, for example the "Earthwatch" network of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a central role in the future information arrangements the Convention maps out. This would ensure that diffusion of desertification information is related closely to the exchange of other classes of information which countries need in order to promote sustainable development.

55. Underlying all of these considerations is the enormous gap between information and action. If it does not ultimately have a positive impact at the local level, information is basically useless. Much of the desertification information presently collected unfortunately falls into this category. Evolving information systems must build in constant feedback from local people and national decision makers in developing countries in order to ensure that their vast contents reorient priorities, policies, programmes and the everyday activities of local populations.

4. Technology transfer and cooperation

Agenda 21 activities

56. Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 sets out a detailed programme for technology transfer and cooperation, most of which could be applied to technologies relevant to combating desertification. Chapter 12 also has some specific recommendations to make, including: (a) introducing environmentally sound agricultural/pastoral technologies in vulnerable drylands; (b) promoting improved management systems to combat desalinization/waterlogging on irrigated croplands and to stabilize rainfed croplands; (c) encouraging the utilization of improved woodstoves and other energy sources which relieve pressure on ligneous resources; and (d) promoting the introduction of technologies which support alternative livelihoods.

Issues for INCD consideration

57. The underlying issue with regard to technology transfer and cooperation is the kinds of technologies available but not consistently utilized to better manage rainfed cropland, irrigated crop land, pasture land and dryland forests, to generate alternative livelihoods and to use more efficient energy sources.

58. In a few instances, such as biotechnologies, the technologies in question are proprietary, raising long-standing questions of financial, legal and commercial obstacles to technology diffusion. More commonly, however, appropriate technologies lie in the public domain or represent the consolidated experience and long-standing traditions of local people. Here, the issue becomes one of information sharing, country studies and capacity building aimed at adapting the right technologies to target groups of people and ecosystems, taking full account of local incentive systems, culture and commercial possibilities.

59. At its second meeting, the Panel of Experts particularly emphasized concentration on three areas largely neglected until now: (a) extension of technology cooperation in dryland areas to non-agricultural sectors such as cottage industries, small businesses and tourism, which can absorb at least part of excess populations straining the carrying capacities of dryland ecosystems; (b) evaluation and transfer of local traditional know-how in promising technologies such as water harvesting and agro-forestry; and (c) reinforcement of the capability of developing countries to conserve, exploit and improve dryland biodiversity and genetic resources, including both plant and animal species.

5. Capacity building

Agenda 21 activities

60. Although there is a separate chapter on capacity building in Agenda 21, Chapter 12 contains a number of specific activities, including: (a) giving members of rural organizations needed management skills; (b) training agro-pastoralists in special land-management techniques and extension agents in participatory approaches to land management; (c) enhancing the skills of personnel engaged in data collection; (d) training decision-makers and land

users in utilizing early-warning information; (e) strengthening interdisciplinary training; and (f) developing special training programmes to increase popular participation, particularly of women, in decision making.

Issues for INCD consideration

61. There is a strong case for reinforcing and expanding capacity building efforts in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification with emphasis on the grass-roots level, the decision-making level and the dialogue between the two. Since this will require strong support from the international community, the Convention should induce a wide-based, long-term approach to all aspects of capacity building - training, institutional development and indigenous research capacity - through commitments both in national/subregional action programmes and in articles dealing with global-level obligations.

62. The Panel of Experts offered the following observations to assist the Secretariat and the INCD in deliberations on capacity building:

(a) Regional and national capacity building centres are not successful when they focus solely on narrowly-defined programmes related to desertification and drought. Such "centres of excellence", which should not be confined to institutions of higher learning, need to have a broader and integrated environment and development view;

(b) Duplication of effort among capacity building institutions at national, regional and international levels is not generally a problem as long as there is a constant flow of information between the institutions so successful experiences can be replicated;

(c) The best way to enable local capacity building is to strengthen national and subregional institutions. There is now serious neglect of universities, research centres and extension services;

(d) There is growing scepticism about creating new research institutions when so many existing ones lack support. At the very least, there should be a careful review of any proposals for new institutions. Where there are no regional level centres, a group of national ones can usually take on the same functions.

6. Education and awareness

Agenda 21 activities

63. The existence of a large Agenda 21 chapter specifically on education and awareness means there is relatively little on these subjects in Chapter 12. That Chapter does, however, recommend national anti-desertification awareness campaigns. Programme Area F on participation and education also mentions the need to strengthen the outreach programmes of international organizations dealing with desertification issues and recommends the review, development and distribution of gender disaggregated information and know-how about combating desertification.

Issues for INCD consideration

64. Education/awareness efforts will largely fall in the domain of national action programmes, covering areas such as: (a) expansion of educational resources in local communities; (b) introduction of materials on desertification and drought into school curricula at all levels; (c) educational opportunities for girls and women; (d) awareness of population dynamics; and (e) educational interactions between outside professionals, such as extension officers, and local people. Articles in the Convention could nevertheless provide for supporting action at the global level. International agencies, particularly UNEP and UNESCO, and donor organizations, have a role to play in providing basic materials on drought and desertification issues, which can then be tailored to local circumstances and translated, if necessary, into local languages. They can also assist by pioneering and catalyzing local use of new educational media such as videos and interactive computer programmes.

7. Linkages to global environmental issues

Agenda 21 activities

65. Desertification processes are intimately linked to three global environmental issues: climate change and global warming, the conservation and utilization of biodiversity and the management of water resources. Large chapters of Agenda 21 on Atmosphere, Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Fresh Water deal with these issues. Other chapters touch on them as well. Only two activities in Chapter 12 reflect them: studying the interactions and impacts of climate change, drought and desertification and promoting *in situ* conservation of special dryland ecological areas and their diversity.

Issues for INCD consideration

66. The Preamble of the Convention could contain general references to linkages to other environmental agreements, particularly: (a) the Climate Change Convention; (b) the Biodiversity Convention; (c) the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); (d) the Ramsar Convention on management of wetlands (some of which, like the Niger inland delta in Mali, paradoxically occur in semi-arid areas); (e) the Basel Convention on international trade in hazardous wastes and related agreements such as the Bamako Convention; (f) the Bonn Convention on migratory species; and (g) regional agreements on management of rivers and lakes, which include water use, water quality, fishing rights and energy provisions.

67. In at least two of these cases, it would also be appropriate to include operational articles relating desertification and drought issues to other environmental problems of global concern. There clearly, for example, would be considerable overlap between the research, data collection and information exchange provisions of the Convention and those of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions:

(a) There are critical linkages, all of which both the International Panel on Climate Change and the International Panel of Experts on Desertification are already evaluating, between drought and desertification on the one hand and the world climate system and climate change on the other.

Global Circulation Models are becoming more sophisticated in establishing correlations betweens the timing and duration of droughts in given subregions of the planet and major events in the world climate system, such as the El Niño Oscillation. There is also the hypothesis, as yet unproven, that the recent long periods of drought in the Sahel and elsewhere reflect global warming or other underlying changes in the world climate system. On the other side, overgrazing and overcultivation of drylands change local surface characteristics with measurable effects on local temperature and rainfall which could impact on the world climate system;

(b) In spite of their relative aridity, the world's drylands support considerable biodiversity of both plant and animal species, much of it still unclassified, unexplored and unutilized. In addition, the drylands are the genetic centres of origin of many useful plant and animal species, particularly the world's cereals which constitute the most important element in the diet of a large portion of the world's population. The maintenance of genetic diversity in situ, supported by ex situ arrangements, is critical to future food production in the drylands. All of these considerations suggest the desirability of the Convention setting a specific agenda for conserving and utilizing biodiversity, which would complement the Biodiversity Convention.

8. Financial resources and mechanisms

Agenda 21 activities

68. The means of implementation sections of the programme areas in Chapter 12, as in other chapters, contain estimates of the costs to countries and the international community of carrying out the activities in the programme area. They do not, by agreement of Governments at the UNCED Conference, discuss funding mechanisms specifically for anti-desertification programmes. Nor does Chapter 33 on financial resources get into this level of detail. This will clearly, however, be a major issue in negotiating the Convention.

Issues for INCD consideration

69. Detailed consideration of the financial provisions of the Convention should probably await both the results of national/subregional case studies and the development of at least a broad outline of other global commitments. Even at this stage, however, it is possible to identify several issues which will arise in marshalling the right mix of domestic and external resources to assist dryland areas in carrying out an integrated, locally-based approach to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought:

(a) The efforts of developing countries themselves, which provide the bulk of financial resources, need to be better understood. Dialogue, dissemination of information, seminars and visits by decision makers from developed countries are some of the elements to accomplish this;

(b) A new locally-based approach probably necessitates distinct changes in project design and implementation by donors. These would logically need to evolve in such directions as: greater reliance on multilateral funding, flexible projects which develop in an iterative, experimental way as

conditions change, more reliance on definition of project activities by local people, more use of local experts, and a longer-term focus in general;

(c) At the same time, a new approach implies new modes of coordination between developing countries, donor organizations and NGOs. Developing countries increasingly complain about the burden of accommodating to the different programming requirements of multiple donors, suggesting intensification of field-level coordination. In a similar way, the commitments of the international community to national/subregional action plans would entail new coordination arrangements beyond the UNDP roundtables common for most developing countries;

(d) The Committee will have before it proposals for new special mechanisms to finance anti-desertification programmes. The role of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and the desirability of a separate desertification window in it, will also come up for discussion.

9. Coordination and cooperation

Agenda 21 activities

70. Chapter 12 places considerable emphasis on strengthening coordination and cooperation within the international community to combat drought and desertification. It specifically calls on appropriate United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and bilateral agencies to: (a) coordinate their roles in combating desertification and promoting reforestation, agroforestry and land management systems in affected countries; (b) specifically to strengthen their cooperation in assisting with the preparation of desertification control programmes and their integration into national planning strategies; and (c) develop programmes of support to subregional organizations.

Issues for INCD consideration

71. Aside from the coordination of financial assistance discussed above, the INCD will need to consider changes in other, more general, modes of international coordination and cooperation in order to implement the new approach it is generally agreed the Convention should embody. It is difficult to assess such institutional changes before work on the substantive articles of the Convention is underway. The following, however, are some preliminary ideas:

(a) While bilateral and multilateral assistance will continue to be the prime forms of cooperation with poorer developing countries, particularly in Africa, other forms of scientific and technical cooperation will increasingly predominate with more advanced developing nations. These will involve catalytic actions by Governments on both sides to promote a wide variety of interactions between universities, research institutions, foundations, NGOs, businesses and other private sector entities;

(b) United Nations agencies and other international organizations will have to review their operations in dryland countries, as well as coordination

mechanisms among themselves, in order to adjust to locally-focused assistance programming. There will, in particular, have to be reconfiguration of the regional and subregional activities of various entities;

(c) The operations of the international trading system, and the international economy more generally, have a significant, sometimes negative impact, on sustainable development in dryland areas. The INCD will need to consider how parties to the Convention can cooperate to reduce the adverse effects;

(d) Cooperative arrangements are needed to deal with transboundary issues among dryland countries and neighbouring nations. Deforestation in one country leading to lower river levels and water availability in a neighbouring country is just one possible example of this phenomenon.

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Conference of the Parties

72. It is standard practice for the Conference of the Parties (COP) to be the supreme decision-making body of a convention, with authority to oversee its implementation. Articles on the COP, such as Article 7 of the Climate Change Convention and Article 23 of the Biodiversity Convention, often spell out specific COP functions of particular importance. There is also usually a saving clause allowing the COP to exercise any other functions integral to achieving a convention's objectives. This ensures that the COP is not vulnerable to challenges to its legal authority. COP commonly meet once a year but nothing prevents provision for more frequent meetings or for calling extraordinary meetings at the request of a party or a specified percentage (e.g. one-third) of parties.

2. Secretariat

73. The secretariats of most conventions have strictly administrative functions without verification responsibilities. Typically, conventions specify such secretariat functions as: (a) arranging for sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, if any; (b) serving as a focal point for gathering information from parties, any subsidiary bodies and other sources; (c) preparing reports; (d) ensuring coordination with other secretariats and international bodies; (e) communicating to parties (or signatories for information purposes), within a set time-frame, the text of any amendments the COP might have adopted in a session before it meets again; and (f) communicating, in the case of protocols, their text, or the text of amendments, to parties to the protocol. Articles 8 and 17 of the Climate Change Convention, as well as Articles 24 and 29 of the Biodiversity Convention, contain examples of such provisions.

74. Some conventions enlist existing international organizations (e.g. UNEP) or the secretariats of other conventions as their secretariats. Others establish secretariats of their own, often keeping in place the secretariat which has serviced the particular convention's negotiation. Given the strong preference of Governments for an independent INCD secretariat, the latter seems more probable in the Convention.

3. Subsidiary bodies

75. Many environmental conventions provide for scientific committees/bodies to give the Conference of Parties the best available expert advice on, at least, scientific and technical matters relating to the convention and sometimes on the drafting of technical annexes. Scientific committees/bodies can also have other functions such as the monitoring of research, data collection and information exchange.

76. Depending on the intricacy of the obligations the Parties have to carry out, many conventions also mandate implementation bodies. These bodies either themselves receive reports from the parties and review progress in meeting commitments or alternatively assist the COP in carrying out such verification functions. This could be a significant feature of obligations regarding national and subregional action programmes in the Convention.

77. Articles 9 and 10 of the Climate Change Convention set up both kinds of bodies. Article 25 of the Biodiversity Convention contains the mandate of a subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice. Each of these Conventions also provides for the creation of an interim and a permanent financial mechanism. At this stage, however, it is doubtful that a single financial entity could be the focal point for financing implementation of the Convention. At the organizational session of the INCD, many Governments rather favoured a package approach to financing, that is one which would utilize a variety of existing, and possibly new, sources of financing.

4. Dispute settlement mechanisms

78. International agreements contain a wide range of mechanisms for settling disputes between parties after negotiations fail to resolve issues. Generally, they fall into two categories: traditional dispute settlement mechanisms and the more novel multilateral, non-adversarial procedures.

79. These categories are not mutually exclusive. However, parties to a dispute should not invoke both mechanisms concurrently. Many conventions contain both. Article 14 of the Climate Change Convention, for example, outlines the traditional mechanisms. Article 13 of the same Convention provides for the future establishment of a multilateral consultative process, to be available at the Parties' request, for the resolution of questions regarding the implementation of the Convention. There was general agreement among climate negotiators that the multilateral consultative process would be forward-looking, aiming to help parties comply with the Convention rather than adjudicate blame or impose sanctions.

80. In this respect, the Climate Change Convention reflects a tendency in international environmental law to rely on systems of cooperation rather than systems of liability. This assumes that when disputes involve issues of global concern, all States have an interest in resolving them. In addition, non-adjudicative procedures often have the advantage of resolving questions before they evolve into bitter legal disputes.

81. The non-compliance procedures in the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Ozone Convention illustrate the operation of multilateral conciliation mechanisms. Parties may submit in writing reservations about another Party's

implementation of the Protocol. An implementation committee, consisting of five parties elected by the Meeting of Parties with equitable geographical distribution, reviews the written submission. Its function is to seek an amicable resolution of the matter and report to the Meeting of Parties. The Parties can then call for steps to bring about full compliance, including steps to assist compliance by the Party in question.

82. The Convention will probably also have provisions which might lead to more traditional bilateral or subregional disputes, for example differences of opinion among neighbouring States sharing water resources. International law and practice point to a panoply of mechanisms for resolving such disputes. Among the most common are: (a) good offices or mediation by a third party; (b) compulsory arbitration; (c) conciliation committees with members selected by each party to the dispute; and (d) submission to the International Court of Justice. Many conventions, such as the Biodiversity Convention, spell out some or all of their dispute settlement procedures in annexes. Resort to compulsory arbitration or the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice requires a previous declaration by the States or regional economic integration organizations concerned, submitted in writing to the Depositary, that they accept such means of settlement as compulsory.

VI. PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Annexes and protocols

83. The sections above suggest the possibility of annexes for action programmes, as well as several technical annexes such as ones containing detailed agendas for research, systematic observation and information sharing. Annexes to deal with technical subjects are not yet a feature of the Climate Change Convention and Annex I of the Biodiversity Convention on identification and monitoring is very brief. Other international agreements, however, commonly employ such annexes. They form an integral part of agreements. References to agreements implicitly constitute references to annexes.

84. One of the most important questions before the INCD will be the desirability of a system of regional or subregional annexes/protocols to the Convention embodying commitments to execute national and subregional action programmes within a fixed time-frame. The INCD could complete work on one of these annexes/protocols, presumably on Africa, at the same time it finalizes the Convention. The Convention could then set ground rules for the later negotiation of annexes/protocols covering other regions of the world. However, should protocols be opted for, the Convention would have to contain specific procedures for their entry into force and provide that only parties to the Convention could be parties to protocols. These procedures, as well as those for signature and ratification, would formally be distinct from those of the Convention itself.

2. Amendments

85. Once it is in force, the Convention will need to respond to changing circumstances, as well as new knowledge and concerns. It thus should contain separate but parallel provisions for amendments to the Convention itself; adoption of annexes to the Convention; amendment of annexes; and the adoption of any protocols associated with the Convention. Such provisions typically

provide for: (a) adoption by the COP of any amendments to a convention or an annex thereof in an ordinary session; (b) arrangements for notifying the Depositary of acceptance; and (c) voting procedures.

86. Parties commonly attempt to reach agreement in ordinary session on any proposed amendments to a convention. Failing that, there are provisions for adoption by a specified majority of parties present and voting. Article 15 of the Climate Change Convention sets the majority for amendments to the Convention itself at three-quarters, Article 29 of the Biodiversity Convention at two-thirds.

87. Amendments to a convention usually do not bind parties which do not accept them affirmatively. In contrast, an ammended annex binds a party unless it opts out. Recent environmental conventions tend to restrict annexes to procedural, scientific, technical and administrative matters.

3. Voting procedures

88. Most international agreements, including the recent environmental conventions, give each party one vote. They also provide for regional economic integration organizations voting in their areas of competence to cast a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are parties. The organization and its member States cannot then simultaneously exercise the right to vote. Other aspects of voting procedures are generally left for elaboration in the rules of procedures which the COP adopts at its first session.

4. Signature

89. In some cases, the texts of conventions limit the entities which can sign the agreement and also specify precise dates for signature. At its organizational session, members of the INCD clearly characterized combating desertification and mitigating drought as matters of concern to all countries. It might therefore, be logical to take a more global approach to opening the Convention for signature. Article 20 of the Climate Change Convention provides a model in this regard by recognizing as potential parties States Members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies or that are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as regional economic integration organizations. The INCD will have to work out the exact nature of the participation of regional economic integration organizations in the Convention.

90. In the case of conventions negotiated under General Assembly auspices, the normal practice is to open instruments for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York.

5. Depositary

91. There is a long-standing practice of utilizing the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the depositary for multilateral conventions, and related instruments, concluded under the auspices of the General Assembly or other United Nations bodies. There is no obvious reason for the Convention to depart from this practice.

6. Ratification

92. A State cannot be bound by a convention unless it ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to it, depending on its constitutional procedures. (The latter terms are commonly encompassed under the term ratify.) States deposit instruments of ratification with the Depositary the convention specifies, in the case of the Convention almost certainly the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A standard provision in recent conventions requires a regional economic integration organization to declare in its instrument of ratification the extent of its competence in matters which the agreement governs and to communicate to the parties any changes in its competence.

7. Entry into force

93. International agreements usually specify entry into force a set period (e.g. 90 days) after a given absolute number of ratifications, typically requiring that one-half, two-thirds or three-quarters of the signatories ratify. Given the lengthy parliamentary procedures needed for ratification in most States, entry into force normally takes several years even with a lenient 50 per cent requirement. Stricter provisions can delay entry into force substantially. Both Article 23 of the Climate Change Convention and Article 36 of the Biodiversity Convention provide that ratifications by regional economic integration organizations are not counted as additional to those of member States in such organizations.

8. Interim arrangements

94. Article 25 (1) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties allows for provisional application of a treaty, or part of a treaty, if the agreement itself so provides or if the negotiating States agree in some other manner, for example in a resolution. Given the urgency of implementing a new strategy for combating desertification and mitigating drought, the INCD should consider providing for interim arrangements in the period between signature of the Convention and its entry into force and in the period between entry into force and the first COP meeting. Such interim arrangements would allow signatories, and possibly other participants in the Convention negotiations, to become involved immediately in inputs to the implementation process.

95. Interim arrangements could facilitate activities such as: (a) preparation of draft rules of procedure for the COP and subsidiary bodies; (b) continuation of work on protocols and annexes which the Convention authorizes but which are not agreed at the time of signature; (c) development of databases and country studies; (d) continued meetings of potential parties before the first COP meeting; (e) communication of measures consistent with the Convention before its entry into force; (f) provision of scientific and technical advice by the existing International Panel of Experts on Desertification or a group of government experts; and (g) operation of the INCD secretariat until the COP designates it or another body as a permanent secretariat.

96. Negotiators of recent environmental conventions availed themselves of the two options which the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties allows. Article 21 of the Climate Change Convention and Article 40 of the Biodiversity Convention deal with interim arrangements. In addition, both negotiating

committees passed resolutions on the same subject. The "prompt start" resolution of the International Negotiating Committee on Climate Change is particularly elaborate in setting up implementation procedures in advance of entry into force of the Climate Change Convention.

9. Reservations

97. A "no reservation" rule is an increasingly common feature of international environmental conventions, for example the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Climate Change Convention and the Biodiversity Convention. Even if a reservation is allowed under a convention it would be subject to certain limitations under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. In particular, a reservation cannot be contrary to the "object and purposes" of a convention.

10. Withdrawals

98. Most international agreements contain provisions for withdrawal, usually specifying that it is possible once a certain number of years elapse after entry into force and effective a specified period after notification of withdrawal. In the Climate Change Convention, the period after entry into force is three years; in the Biodiversity Convention two years. Usually withdrawal from a convention implies withdrawal from any of its protocols unless the text of a protocol provides otherwise. International practice does not generally question, however, the ability of States to withdraw an instrument of ratification, accession or acceptance before a convention enters into force

11. Authentic texts

99. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties does not prescribe specific procedures for the preparation of authentic texts. Under United Nations procedures, the parties to a convention delegate the task of authentication to the Secretary-General since time constraints usually prevent their representatives from authenticating texts themselves. In practice, the Treaty Section of the United Nations Secretariat then prepares authentic texts of the convention instruments before they are opened for signature by invited States. Many international conventions, including the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions, therefore, provide for the deposition of the original texts in all United Nations languages with the Secretary-General. They also specify that the texts in the different languages are equally authentic.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
TO ELABORATE A CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (INCD)
First Session
24 May-3 June 1993
Agenda item 5

REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION

1. By its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly established a Special Voluntary Fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary General of the United Nations, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process.

2. During the organizational session of the negotiating Committee some countries indicated their contributions to the Fund, others indicated their intention to do so as soon as their internal procedures would permit. The

Chairman of the Committee urged Governments in a position to do so but which have not yet done so to contribute to the Special Voluntary Fund according to their possibilities at an early date. He also urged the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to contribute generously to the Special Voluntary Fund.

3. Some new pledges and payments have been made since the Committee's organizational session, accompanied in some cases by conditions which are being clarified with the competent authorities. The state of pledges and receipts is shown in the following table:

Special Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries
(General Assembly resolution 47/188, para. 15)

Status of contributions as of 23 April 1993

	Special Voluntary Fund	
	Pledges	Contributions
	(US dollars)	
Member States		
Canada	81 000*	-
Denmark	-	200 000
France	70 000*	-
Germany	180 000*	-
Japan	to be announced	-
Netherlands	300 000 to 500 000	for both funds
Norway	-	200 000
Spain	60 000*	-
Sweden	300 000	-
United Kingdom	71 000*	-
United States of America	-	50 000
Others		
UNEP	-	-
Total	762 000	450 000

* Approximate equivalent in United States dollars.

4. Most of these resources have been used in connection with the first substantive session of the Committee, after appropriate consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, particularly on the interpretation of paragraph 15 of the resolution on the determination of countries eligible for assistance. In extending assistance to the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, due attention has been

paid to the particular situation of the countries concerned, as well as precedents established recently by other negotiating processes on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

5. In light of the above considerations the secretariat has issued travel authorizations to one delegate from about 70 countries including most LDCs and a significant number of developing countries affected by desertification and drought as specified in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 47/188.

6. In addition, financial assistance has been extended to representatives of developing countries who are members of the Bureau of the Committee and its two Working Groups, in order to ensure that the delegates concerned have no difficulty in participating in the Committee's work.

7. It is estimated that the cost to the Fund of these arrangements for the second session will be in the order of $348,000.

8. Should similar arrangements be adopted for the second, third, fourth and fifth sessions (Geneva, New York, Geneva and Paris) the total amount required for this Fund would be approximately US$ 2,400,000. In the light of this situation, the Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to make the necessary contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund.

9. The Committee may also wish to give guidance to the Executive Secretary concerning the adequacy of the arrangements made in respect of the use of the Fund for participation in the first substantive session and concerning its future use.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

10. The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/228, paragraph 13 decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a Trust Fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations ...". It also urged "governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund."

11. At the time of the Committee's organizational session, a pledge to this Fund had been recorded from the United States of America of US$ 200,000 and from France FF 600,000 (approximately $110,000). The Netherlands also pledged a contribution of an amount between US$ 300,000 and 500,000. Since the organizational session, the United Nations Environment Programme has agreed to make a contribution of US $250,000. A number of other countries made pledges but without giving specific figures regarding the envisaged contribution. The following countries made such pledges: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Spain and Sweden. The secretariat has established contacts with other countries as well as agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to enlist their support. The state of pledges and receipts is shown in the following table:

Trust Fund for the Negotiating Process

Status of contributions as of 23 April 1993

	Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities	
	Pledges	Contributions
	(US dollars)	
Member States		
Canada	to be announced	-
Denmark	to be announced	-
France	110 000*	-
Germany	to be announced	-
Japan	to be announced	-
Netherlands	300 000 to 500 000	for both funds
Norway	to be announced	-
Spain	to be announced	-
Sweden	to be announced	-
United Kingdom	-	-
United States of America	-	200 000*
Others		
UNEP	250 000	-
Total	360 000	200 000

* Approximate equivalent in United States dollars.

12. At the time of the adoption of resolution 47/188, the General Assembly was informed that estimated costs in 1993 and 1994 for staff and conference servicing in connection with the work of the Committee would be absorbed in the United Nations Programme Budget for the biennium 1993-1994. These resources are being considered by the resumed forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, interim measures were taken for a period of three months from January to March 1993, for the establishment of the Ad Hoc secretariat and the initiation of the required action. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed Member States of the establishment of the Voluntary Fund for the purpose of supplementing the resources to be provided by the regular budget. It was pointed out that these additional resources are required to enable the secretariat to undertake activities designed to provide the necessary support to the negotiating process including preparatory substantive work at the national, regional and global levels. As summarized in the Aide Memoire attached to the Secretary-General's note verbale, the secretariat has estimated US$ 3.2 million for the extrabudgetary resources needed to enable the secretariat to carry out the activities identified.

13. As far as the staffing of the secretariat of the Committee is concerned, a senior official has already been recruited for one year on the basis of the resources available in the Fund. Further, the Executive Secretary is discussing with some United Nations organizations (UNDP, UNEP, WMO and FAO) on the possibility of obtaining the secondment of their staff to the secretariat on a full or part-time basis. As far as governments are concerned, the secretariat is in contact with France, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Spain to obtain the secondment of a civil servant or the financing of Associate Experts from developing countries. Other staff members, both professional and general service, are being made available from the United Nations secretariat, other institutions or temporarily recruited.

14. The Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to respond to the need for contributions of the Trust Fund so as to enable the secretariat to launch the activities designed to support the negotiating process.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
TO ELABORATE A CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (INCD)
First Session
24 May-3 June 1993
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

List of Non-Governmental Organizations recommended for accreditation

Note by the Secretariat

The following is a list of non-governmental organizations which the Secretariat believes have satisfied the requirements of rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure (A/AC.241/3), taking into account, in particular, decisions 1/1 and 2/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions[1]. The Secretariat recommends that the Committee accredit the organizations listed.

1. Action for Development (AFORD)
PO Box 1042
Port Louis
Mauritius
Tel: (230) 261 6145
Fax: (230) 208 2634
Established: 1964
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Plans to finance implementation of projects to combat desertification and related problems.

2. Africa Harvest Mission
P O Box 514 Nkwogwu
Imo State
Mbaise
Nigeria
Tel: (83) 233 633
Fax: (83) 233 766

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[1] For the text of the decisions, see documents A/45/46 (Annex I) and A/46/48 (Annex I).

Established: 1991
Membership: National (30)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Organizes committee of 8 NGOs to co-ordinate Nigerian NGO input to the INCD negotiations.

3. African Association for Literacy and Adult Education
P O Box 50768
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 331 512
Fax: (254 2) 340 849
Established: 1985
Membership: Regional (46 countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts environmental education pilot projects at the grass-roots level in Lesotho, Uganda and Mali and is identifying possible projects in other African countries.

4. African Association of Development Education
P O Box 3907
Lome
Togo
Tel: (228) 21 63 16
Fax: (228) 21 63 16
Established: 1978
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Holds meetings on social/economic development; promotes rural environmental projects; co-ordinates health, nutrition, and population education activities; distributes vegetable seeds and fruit trees.

5. African Centre for Technology Studies
P O Box 45917
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 741 651
Fax: (254 2) 743 995
Established: 1988
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Facilitates dryland research programmes on subjects such as land tenure/property rights, pastoral management, and forest development.

6. African Forum For Mathematical Ecology
Department of Biology, Addis Ababa University
P O Box 32896
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Tel: (251 1) 180 017
Fax: (251 1) 551 244
Established: 1990
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes scientific research on drought from an ecological perspective, including both mathematical models and analyses of causes and possible solutions.

7. Asociación Kunas Unidos Por Nabguana (KUNA)
P O Box 536, Ciudad de Panamá.
Via España, Edificio Brasilia, Piso 1
Panamá 1
Panamá
Tel: (507) 638 879
Fax: (507) 693 514
Established: 1991
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts projects in Panama to demarcate the territories of indigenous peoples and analyze ecological/cultural interactions.

8. Association Nationale d'Action Rurale
01 BP: 2314
Ouagadougou 01
Burkina Faso
Tel: (226) 30 32 53
Fax: (226) 30 32 53
Established: 1989
Membership: National

Activities Relevant to the Committee: Organizes activities to counter soil erosion, aiming principally at helping populations improve their means of production, their knowledge and especially their attitudes towards the environment.

9. Association Orukutuku
B.P. No. 80
Dassa-Zoume
Benin
Tel: (229) 300 264
Fax: (229) 300 736
Established: 1984
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Protects the environment by combating bush fires in five villages of the Dassa-Zoume sub-prefecture and by encouraging reforestation.

10. Association Tunisienne Pour la Protection de la Nature et de L'Environnement (ATPNE)
12 rue Tantaoui el Jawhari el Omrane
1005 Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: (216 1) 288 141
Fax: (216 1) 797 295
Established: 1971
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Implements projects, in collaboration with Tunisian government, in areas such as education/awareness, natural barriers for plant protection and alternate energy sources.

11. Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO)
P M B 392
Serrekunda
Gambia

Tel: (220) 900 95/96
Fax: (220) 900 95
Established: 1983
Membership: International and national NGOs.

Activities relevant to the Committee: Holds meetings and coordinates members' activities in areas such as natural resources and environment, health education, population, rural development, and skills training.

12. Association of Women in Development Experts (AWIDE)
P O Box 7600
Accra-North
Accra
Ghana
Tel: (233 21) 222 459
Fax: (233 21) 228 398
Established: 1990
Membership: National (140 Ghanian members working with over 5000 rural women).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Facilitates agroforestry programmes in rural communities, working mostly with women.

13. Association pour la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement et le Développement (ASED) B.P. 06-1269 PK.3
Cotonou
Benin
Tel: (229) 33 13 19
Fax: (229) 33 13 19
Established: 1989
Membership: National (with expatriate members).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Holds seminars on environmental education in schools and universities; assists villagers, particularly women, with agroforestry, nursery and watershed management projects.

14. Australian Conservation Foundation
340 Gore Street
Fitzroy
Victoria 3065
Australia
Tel: (61 3) 416 1166
Fax: (61 3) 416 0767
Established: 1957
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Helps establish joint initiatives called "Landeare" to promote sustainable land use in Australia and encourage cooperation between farmers and conservationist.

15. Australian Council For Overseas Aid
Private Bag 3
Deakin Act 2600
Australia
Tel: (61 6) 285 1816
Fax: (61 6) 285 1720
Established: 1965
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Facilitates NGO involvement in the implementation of UNCED outcomes both in Australia and neighbouring areas; provides policy advice to the Australian Government on INCD negotiations.

16. Botswana Technology Centre
P/Bag 0082
Gaborone
Botswana
Tel: (267) 31 41 67
Fax: (267) 37 46 77
Established: 1979
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Disseminates information on energy and environment as well as general issues of desertification in Southern Africa; sponsors research on water harvesting and water availability in remote villages.

17. Carrefour Sahel
B P 3225
Bamako
Mali
Tel:
Fax: (223) 22 23 59
Established: 1990
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Organises projects on soil conservation, reforestation, water management, combating poverty, improving household sanitation and re-enforcing economic activities.

18. Centre de Recherche et D'information pour le Développement (CRID)
14 Passage Dubail
Paris
75010
France
Tel: (33 1) 44 72 07 71
Fax: (33 1) 44 72 06 84
Established: 1976
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Represents French NGOs in discussions with the French Government and international agencies on cooperation policies; coordinates NGO environmental awareness campaigns.

19. Centre for Action-Oriented Research on African Development (CARAD)
B.P. 13429
Yaounde
Cameroon, United Republic of
Tel: (237) 23 18 25
Fax: (237) 23 59 23
Established: 1990
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes environmental education on a wide range of topics through workshops, seminars, conferences, and articles in journals.

20. Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création
(C.I.P.C.R.E.)
B.P. 1256
Bafoussam
Cameroon
Tel: (237) 44 62 67
Fax: (237) 44 51 91
Established: 1989
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Organizes research on major environmental problems in sub-saharan Africa, including desertification; disseminates research results to the public through a newsletter, radio broadcasts and publications.

21. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement Rural (CEDER)
BP 59 Nanga
Eboko
Cameroon
Tel:
Fax: (237) 23 14 53
Established: 1989
Membership: National (8400)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Conducts awareness, information and training programmes related to the INCD negotiations, working with peasant organizations, national councils, unions and associations.

22. Christian Service Committee of the Churches in Malawi
P O Box 51294
Limbe
Malawi
Tel: (265) 642 877
Fax: (265) 642 616
Established: 1968
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Works with indigenous NGOs in Malawi in areas such as afforestation, agro forestry, water supply, and soil and water conservation.

23. Club des Prospecteurs de l'Or Vert (CLUPOV)
BP 25 Moundou
Logone Occidental
Chad
Tel:
Fax:
Established: 1990
Membership:

Activities relevant to the Committee: Produces and distributes tree plants for community reforestation programmes, conducts awareness campaigns on the negative effects of deforestation.

24. Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora
Santa Filomena 185
P O Box Casilla 3675
Santiago
Chile

Tel: (56 2) 777 1607
Fax: (56 2) 737 7290
Established: 1968
Membership: Mostly national (2020 from Chile and 60 USA, Germany, UK).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Is carrying out two-year research project in the semi arid zone of Chile as well as urban reforestation programme; also develops lobbying activities and environmental education programmes.

25. Consejo Andino de Manejo Ecológico
Jiron Arequipa No. 120, 3er. Piso B
Puno
Perú
Tel: (54 35) 16 19
Fax: (54 35) 27 01
Established: 1988
Membership: Regional (Southern Andes)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes research on the socio-economic impacts of desertificaiton and participatory management of natural resources.

26. Council For Human Ecology-Kenya (CHEK)
P O Box 20360
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 720 399
Fax: (254 2) 718 730
Established: 1977
Membership: Mostly national

Activities relevant to the Committee: Publishes papers on arid and semi arid areas with strong orientation toward desertification issues arising in UN context.

27. Country Women Association of Nigeria
No. 2 Afunbiowo Street, P.M.B. 809
Akure
Ondo State
Nigeria
Tel: (234 34) 231 945
Fax: (234 34) 231 633
Established: 1982
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes awareness programmes stressing dangers of soil degradation in desertifying areas. Encourages members, mostly women farmers, to conserve their environments by planting trees and grass.

28. DESCO/Centro de Estudios Y Promoción del Desarrollo
León de La Fuente 110
Lima 17
Perú
Tel: (51 14) 627 193
Fax: (51 14) 617 309
Established: 1965
Membership: National (110)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts sustainable rural development projects in dryland and mountain areas of central Peru.

29. Egerton University
P O Box 536
Njoro
Kenya
Tel: (254 37) 61620
Fax: (254 37) 61527
Established: 1939
Membership: Students (5000) and teaching staff (500).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Conducts wide variety of agricultural research, extension and training activities to achieve food security in Kenya. Organizes farmer seminars to promote efficient management of natural resources.

30. Environment Liaison Centre International
P O Box 72461
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 562015
Fax: (254 2) 562175
Established: 1971
Membership: International (700 members).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Manages worldwide network of grassroots organizations involved in anti-desertification activities, including communications links, database facilities and interactions with UN system.

31. Environmental Monitoring Group
P O Box 123
Observatory 7925
Cape Town
South Africa
Tel: (27 21) 448 7886
Fax: (27 21) 471 987
Established: 1991
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Publishes books on sustainable development in South Africa and is organising upcoming conference on Agenda 21 with a specific focus on drought and desertification.

32. Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM)
4/5 rue Klebert
B.P. 3370
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: (221) 22 21 25
Fax: (221) 22 26 95
Established: 1972
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes NGO activities on issues related to food security, land degradation, technology, macro-economic policies, alternative energy sources and popular participation.

33. Fédération des Associations du Fouta pour le Développement (FAFD)
Sicap Liberte II, Villa no. 1382
BP. 3865
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: (221) 25 72 33
Fax: (221) 24 24 31
Established: 1986
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Manages network of 135 village associations in northern Senegal, whose activities emphasize environmental education, integrated rural development and peasant leadership training.

34. Forum Maghrébin pour l'Environnement et le Développement
2 rue Zahla, B.P. 403
Rabat
Morocco
Tel: (212 7) 72 74 06
Fax: (212 7) 72 74 06
Established: 1989
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes reforestation, particularly tree planting with an emphasis on palm growing, also organises public awareness campaigns.

35. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)/Quakers
United Nations Office
777 United Nations Plaza
New York
NY 10017
United States Of America
Tel: 91 212) 682 2745
Fax: (1 212) 983 0034
Established:
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Hosts preparatory discussions for delegates to INCD sessions; prepares and distributes briefing papers; mounts wide variety of projects at grass-roots level in dryland areas around the world.

36. Fundación Alma
Calle 100 No. 11B-95 Of. 201
Santa Fé de Bogotá, D.C.
Colombia
Tel: 218 0156
Fax: 256 7339
Established: 1985
Membership: Staff (25).

Activities relevant to the Committee: Engages in a variety of research, education and publication activities related to sustainable development in Colombia.

37. Fundación Rio Parnaiba
Caixa Postal 1011
CEP 64 001 330
Teresina-Piaui
Brazil

Tel: (55 86) 223 7015
Fax: (55 86) 223 1622
Established: 1988
Membership: National (70 members)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes reforestation of arid lands and environmental education related to desertification processes.

38. Human Settlements of Zambia (HUZA)
P O Box 50141
Lusaka
Zambia
Tel: (260 1) 252 737
Fax: (260 1) 222 688
Established: 1982
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Engages in environmental education activities in dryland areas; promotes sustainable uses of fuel efficient stoves and bio-gases.

39. India Community Development Service Society
No. 1, 3rd Cross, Vivekananda Nagar
Karnataka State
Bangalore
560 033
India
Tel: (91 812) 562 649
Fax:
Established: 1983
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Organizes environmental awareness campaigns at the local community level in areas such as use of fuel efficient stoves, mass tree planting, and tree and herbal nurseries.

40. Indian Committee of Youth Organisations (ICYO)
F-13, South Extension Part-I
New Dehli
110049
India
Tel: (91 11) 462 4776
Fax: (91 11) 644 4969
Established: 1982
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Assists member organisations to implement anti-desertification projects, particularly in the area of agroforestry on irrigated lands.

41. Institut de Recherche sur l'Environnement (IREC)
383 Avenue de la Gare
74800 La Roche sur Foron
France
Tel: (33) 50 25 96 41
Fax: (33) 50 25 96 41
Established: 1982
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Concentrates on the implementation of Agenda 21 in partnership with local authorities, educational institutions and other associations.

42. Institute for Development Anthropology
99 Collier Street, P O Box 2207
Binghamton
New York
13902-2207
United States Of America
Tel: (1 607) 772 6244
Fax: (1 607) 773 8993
Established: 1976
Membership: Staff

Activities relevant to the Committee: Undertakes desertification related research for international agencies and conservation organizations in areas such as land use strategies, pastoralism, and gender-relations.

43. Instituto de Pre-Historia, Antropologia e Ecologia (IPHAE)
Caixa Postal 585
78900-970 Porto Velho
Rondonia
Brazil
Tel: (55 69) 221 8931
Fax: (55 69) 223 3945
Established: 1988
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Carries out applied research on the recuperation of degraded lands. Provides assistance for "Earth Negotiations Bulletin" reporting on the INCD.

44. International Federation of University Women (IFUW)
37 Quai Wilson
Geneva
CH 1201
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 731 23 80
Fax: (41 22) 738 04 40
Established: 1919
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Operates long-established environment and development programmes and networks concerned with the key role women can play in combatting desertification.

45. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
3 Endsleigh Street
London WC1H ODD
United Kingdom
Tel: (44 71) 388 2117
Fax: (44 71) 388 2826
Established: 1971
Membership: Staff

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes sustainable development in dryland areas by research and by programmes on sustainable agriculture, environmental economics and energy.

46. International Soil Reference and Information Centre
(ISRIC)
P O Box 353
AG Wageningen
6700
Netherlands
Tel: (31 83) 70 19063
Fax: (31 83) 70 24460
Established: 1966
Membership: Staff

Activities relevant to the Committee: Does advanced work for international agencies, for example on global assessment of human induced soil degradation (GLASOD), World Atlas of Desertification, and World Soils and Terrain Digital Database (SOTER).

47. KENGO Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations
P O Box 48197, Mwanzi Road
Westlands
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 749 747
Fax: (254 2) 749 382
Established: 1982
Membership: Kenya

Activities relevant to the Committee: Organizes network of Kenyan NGOs involved in sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, water conservation, energy conservation, and population studies.

48. Karnataka Welfare Society (KWALITY)
Post Box No. 28
Chikballapur
562 101
India
Tel: (91 81) 562 486
Fax: (91 81) 220 0016
Established: 1980
Membership: national (200 volunteers)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes sustainable practices and environmental education of low income families through activities such as seminars, workshops, village meetings, and skill-oriented training for women.

49. Kenya Volunteer Development Services
P O Box 310
Bungoma
Kenya
Tel: (254 337) 200 93
Fax: (254 337) 202 35
Established: 1990
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Engages in a range of tree planting, soil conservation, water management, and environmental extension activities.

50. Kerala Sastra Sahithya Parishad
62-5th Cross
Giri Nagar
Kochi
682 020
India
Tel: (91 484) 31 48 61
Fax: (91 484) 340 381
Established: 1962
Membership: National (70,000)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts non-formal education/awareness programmes for rural populations, emphasizing drought and desertification issues; supports preparation of action plans for local communities.

51. Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center Inc.
106 PSSC Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: (632) 92 29 621 loc. 313
Fax: (632) 95 21 97
Established: 1987
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Participates actively in local and international lobbying on forestry issues and on the recognition of traditional systems of land use and ecosystem management.

52. Les Amis de la Terre-Togo
39 route de Kpalime
BP 20190
Lomé
Togo
Tel: (228) 21 49 65
Fax: (228) 25 92 17
Established: 1990
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Re-inforces national and local institutions dealing with drought and desertification issues, with emphasis on improving policies regarding land use and income of small farmers and herders.

53. Mauritius Council of Social Service
Astor Court
Port Louis
Mauritius
Tel: (230) 212 0242
Fax: (230) 208 6370
Established: 1965
Membership: National (NGO umbrella organisation)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes integrated community development activities through conferences, seminars, village drama/sketches and other grass-roots education/awareness activities.

54. OXFAM
274 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7DZ
United Kingdom
Tel: (44 865) 311 311
Fax: (44 865) 312 600
Established: 1942
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Works as major relief and development organization in over 70 developing countries with major programmes in drought prone areas; takes active role in education, networking and advocacy work on arid land issues.

55. Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération
46 Avenue Faidherbe
B.P. 1887
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: (221) 21 87 59
Fax: (221) 22 74 44
Established: 1976
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Runs land conservation programmes in northern Senegal, including nurseries (with a capacity of 1,000,000 plants a year), community woodlots, small-scale irrigation, and introduction of fast growing trees.

56. Peace Trust
Near Police Housing Colony
Trichy Road, Dindigul-624 009
Tamilnadu
India
Tel: (91 451) 5021
Fax: (91 451) 5282
Established: 1984
Membership: National (40,000 volunteers)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes studies and local-level campaigns on anti-desertification programmes; disseminates information on desertification through lectures, monographs, etc.

57. Platform for Sustainable Development (ex Alliance for Sustainable Development)
Postbus 19245
3501
De Utrecht
Netherlands
Tel: (31 30) 367 997
Fax: (31 30) 367 998
Established: 1993
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Provides information to members and organizes public debates on UNCED-related topics, including desertification and INCD negotiations; involves interested members in discussions with the Dutch delegation to INCD.

58. Port Loko United Nations Students Association/Port Loko United Nations Association
P O Box 788
Freetown
Sierra Leone
Tel: (232 22) 230 457/231 391
Fax: (232 22) 225 615
Established: 1979
Membership: National (13,000)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Supports nature clubs and other environmental education activities in schools, institutions and local communities; maintains tree-planting projects; collaborates with government reforestation and afforestation programmes.

59. Public Campaign on Environment and Development
271 Polhena Road
Kelaniya
Sri Lanka
Tel: (941) 573 853
Fax: (941) 446 518
Established: 1991
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Holds public consultations and awareness programmes to identify the root causes of drought and desertification; lobbys at the national and international level on desertification issues.

60. Réseau Africain pour le Développement (RADEV)
P O Box 60233
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Tel: (251 1) 514 963
Fax: (251 1) 515 833
Established: 1991
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Prepares project documents in socio-economic and environment fields; implements environmental programmes and projects, including those related to combatting desertification and mitigating drought.

61. Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London
SW7 2AR
United Kingdom
Tel: (44 71) 589 5466
Fax: (44 71) 584 4447
Established: 1830
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Is the major source of geographical information and a focal point for geographical and exploration activity in Britain; aims toward the improvement and diffusion of geographical knowledge, including dryland environments.

62. Rural Centre for Human Interests
Shalana, Rajgarh 173 101
Distt. Sirmour,
Himachal Pradesh
India

Tel: (91 17) 93 8732
Fax: (91 17) 93 8732
Established: 1980
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes activities to counter unplanned deforestation, improper management of land and water, and the growth of wastelands.

63. SOS-SAHEL INTERNATIONAL
94, rue Saint Lazare
Paris
75009
France
Tel: (33 1) 42 85 08 44
Fax: (33 1) 45 96 07 15
Established: 1978
Membership: Regional

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes dryland projects such as water holding methods, reforestation, dune formation and rural-development.

64. Sahabat Alam Malaysia - Friends of the Earth (Malaysia)
19 Jalan Kelawei
10250 Penang
Malaysia
Tel: (604) 376 930
Fax: (604) 375 705
Established: 1977
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes environmentally sound soil and water management, with particular emphasis on agriculture, dam construction and forests; serves as secretariat for APPEN (Asia-Pacific Peoples' Environment Network).

65. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre
14/300 Nisar Road
Lahore, Lantt
Pakistan
Tel: (92 42) 372 414
Fax: (92 42) 874 914
Established: 1976
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Interacts with both grass-roots and national NGOs in Pakistan which are addressing desertification issues; updates NGOs on UNCED follow-up, including work of INCD.

66. Society for Conservation & Protection of Environment (SCOPE)
511 Al-awin Tower (NIPA)
Chowrangi University Road, Gulshan-a-Iqbal
Karachi-75300
Pakistan
Tel: (92 21) 496 5042
Fax: (92 21) 496 5042
Established: 1988
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Initiates support programmes for arid zone agribusiness; promotes rural entrepreneurship based on sustainable agriculture.

67. Solidarity Canada Sahel
4205 St. Denis St., suite 240
Montréal, Québec
H2J 2K9
Canada
Tel: (514) 842 1024
Fax: (514) 597 2334
Established:
Membership: International (Canada and Sahelian countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Aims to improve conditions in the Sahel by organising training, workshops, publications, research, and implementation of common projects.

68. Sri Lanka Environment Journalists Forum
P O Box 30, 5 Fourth Lane
Nawala
Sri Jayawardenapura
Sri Lanka
Tel: (941) 566 717
Fax: (941) 698 315
Established: 1987
Membership: National (287)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Gathers information on environmental issues; publishes relevant documentation, including a monthly environmental news paper and news briefs; trains media personnel working in the environmental area.

69. Stockholm Environment Institute
Jarntorget 84, Box 2142
Stockholm
S-103 14
Sweden
Tel: (468) 723 0260
Fax: (468) 723 0348
Established: 1989
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Produces publications related to land use management systems, including the restoration of degraded land, as well as detailed studies of the productivity of biomass systems. Is also a pioneer in the field of climate change studies.

70. Sudanese Environment & Development Organization
P O Box 399
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: (249 11) 446 290
Fax:
Established: 1993
Membership: National (151 members)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Develops, promotes and improves water resources and roads; provides relief, rehabilitation, repatriation and resettlement services for displaced people; hosts meetings and does studies to promote understanding of sustainable development.

71. Sustainable Development Policy Institute
House No: 46, Street No: 12, F-6/3
Islamabad
Pakistan
Tel: (92 51) 211 097
Fax: (92 51) 218 135
Established: 1992
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Provides advice to government and private institutions on issues of sustainable development, including desertification; undertakes research projects on sustainable agriculture involving issues of water management, fertilizers.

72. Tanzania Environmental Society (TESO)
P O Box 1309
Dar Es Salaam
Tanzania
Tel: (255 51) 728 96
Fax: (255 51) 461 06
Established: 1985
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts environmental education programmes emphasizing fragile ecosystems as well as campaigns against environmental damage; works with grass roots organizations on agroforestry and land use planning.

73. Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)
c/o International Centre for Theoretical Physics
P O Box 586 - Miramare
Trieste
34100
Italy
Tel: (39 40) 2240 327
Fax: (39 40) 2245 59
Established: 1983
Membership: International (320 from 60 countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Assists developing countries to establish and operate a network of research and training centres on environmental problems; offers research grants and travel fellowships to scientists in developing countries.

74. Third World Network
87 Cantonment Road
Penang
10250
Malaysia
Tel: (604) 373 511
Fax: (604) 368 106
Established: 1984
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Supports and coordinates local and national efforts throughout developing world on issues related to drought and land degradation, including INCD negotiations, by publishing articles and lobbying national governments;

75. Thusano Lefatsheng
P/Bag 00251
Gaborone
Botswana
Tel: (267) 37 22 73
Fax: (267) 30 54 94
Established: 1984
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Cultivates, processes and markets indigenous fruit trees and medicinal plants; introduces sustainable agricultural methods in drylands through extension, research into new crops and protection of endangered plant species.

76. Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute
Pacha-Palode, P.O., Trivandrum 695 562
Trivandrum 695 562
Kerala
India
Tel: (91 47) 284 236
Fax: (91 471) 437 230
Established: 1979
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Studies the biodiversity of the "Hot Spot" regions of the western Ghats to identify biodiversity conservation areas.

77. Trust For Transitional Action To Progress (TTAP)
102-A, Railway Station Road
Post Box no. 11, Tirurattur (Naadt)
Tamil Nadu
635 601
India
Tel: 20612 (pip call)
Fax:
Established: 1989
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in rural areas; stimulates global action for women towards equitable development.

78. United Socio Economic Development & Research Programme
(UNDARP)
945, Boottee Street, Camp,
Maharashtra State
Pune
411001
India
Tel: (91 212) 290 30
Fax: c/o MCCI (91 212) 444 253
Established: 1980
Membership: National

Activities relevant to the Committee: Supports a variety of rural development projects, including, among others, biogas technology, smokeless chullahs, lift irrigations, percolation tanks, slum improvement, low cost housing, and internal roads.

79. West and Central African Soil Science Association
06 B.P. 9046
Ouagadougou 06
Burkina Faso
Tel: (226) 31 92 02
Fax: (226) 31 92 06
Established: 1987
Membership: Regional (23 countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes implementation of UNCED results, particularly on sustainable land use; publishes a regular bulletin covering, among other topics, soil conservation in drylands.

80. Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
845 Third Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10022
United States of America
Tel: (1 212) 759 7982
Fax: (1 212) 759 8647
Established:
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Aims to strenghten the role of women in policy making and in the implementation of Agenda 21, including in dryland areas.

81. World Organization of the Scout Movement - Africa Regional Office
5 rue du Pré-Jérôme
Geneva
1205
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 320 42 33
Fax: (41 22) 781 20 53
Established:
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Promotes fundamental principles of scouting, including participation in the development of society with respect for the integrity of the natural world.

82. Worldwide Network
1331 H Street, NW, Suite 903
Washington DC
20005
United States Of America
Tel: (1 202) 347 1514
Fax: (1 202) 347 1524
Established: 1981
Membership: International (7,500 networkers in 125 countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Educates the public and policy makers on role of women in sustainable development; develops national networks to translate Agenda 21 into action; will work with INCD to ensure incorporation of gender perspectives.

83. Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC)
Overshiestraat 9
1062 HN Amsterdam
Netherlands

Tel: (31 20) 614 2510
Fax: (31 20) 617 5545
Established: 1948
Membership: International

Activities relevant to the Committee: Mounts awareness campaigns on environment and development issues flowing from UNCED-related Youth Conference in Poland; serves as youth ambassador for UNCED followup.

84. ZERO
P O Box 5338
Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: 00 263 4 791 333
Fax: 00 263 4 732 858
Established: 1987
Membership: Regional (SADC countries)

Activities relevant to the Committee: Develops strategies to cope with drought in Southern Africa; studies environmental/ economic impacts of harnessing the Zambezi; maintains network of environmental experts; promotes NGO advocacy regarding international environmental agenda.